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Comments on EU-China Summit outcome

**Figure of the day: 7 !**

In seven out of ten annual EU/China Summits\(^1\), China has emphasized support for rules-based trade. Repeated again in the joint statement of yesterday: „The EU and China firmly support the rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core, fight against unilateralism and protectionism, and commit to complying with WTO rules.“ One might question the credibility of this statement given that in all these years of similar declarations, China’s protectionism, State influence in the economy, and violations of WTO rules continued or even expanded.

\(^1\) On the other three there was no joint statement issued.

**Milan Nitzschke, spokesperson of AEGIS Europe:**

„To have a joint statement is better than no joint statement. But it does not help if the partners cannot be held accountable. In writing, China again committed 'to complying with WTO rules', just as it has many times before. In reality there is no major economy so massively violating WTO rules, including its own WTO Accession Protocol, as China still does today. The EU must move beyond simple declarations and actually hold China accountable on subsidies, IP protection, and social and environmental dumping. An insistence on reciprocity is a step in the right direction but the EU can and must be more assertive in applying existing rules to achieve a level playing field. At the same time, a swift reform of WTO rules is more pressing than ever, to make trade rules more effective and enforceable."

**ABOUT AEGIS EUROPE**

AEGIS Europe brings together more than 20 European associations representing a broad variety of industries including traditional industries, consumer branches, SMEs and renewable energy sectors, accounting for more than €500 billion in annual turnover and millions of jobs across the EU. This industry alliance, made up of leaders in sustainable manufacturing and social and environmental responsibility, is committed to European manufacturing as the fundamental driver of innovation, growth and jobs in Europe.

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